Crisis Faced by Handloom Industry in Certain Districts of Uttar Pradesh

2806. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom industries in the Districts of Azamgarh and Mau in Uttar Pradesh are facing crisis;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of the steps proposed to provide relief to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) While there are no specific reports from Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding crisis in handloom industries in Azamgarh and Mau, the major problem being faced by the handloom weaves in the country including those in Mau and Azamgarh is because of high yarn prices.

(c) Government is constantly reviewing the price situation and has taken corrective steps. The State sector and cooperative sector spinning mills have been directed to augment the production of crucial counts of yarn and exercise restraint in prices. The National Textile Corporation (NTC) has been asked to readjust their production plan to augment production of hank yarn of 40s and below where the price rise has affected the handloom weavers the most. NHDC also has been advised to augment yarn supplies. The Chief Ministers of States have been requested to monitor the production of yarn by cooperative/State sector mills, and to hold regular State Level reviews regarding supply, prices and distribution of hank yarn. The chief Ministers have also been advised to impress upon the District Collectors to organise regular checking of the stocks and selling prices of yarn dealers in the districts, with a view to prevent boarding of yarn. Mau and Azamgarh have areas of silk weaving. Government of India has recently taken a decision to import 200 tonnes of silk yarn which is expected to bring moderation in silk yearn prices which have also been a cause of major problem to silk handloom weavers. Import duty on raw silk is proposed to be reduced from 55% to 30% ad valorem in the 1992-93 budget.

Export of Silk

2807. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whther Government have any proposal to increase the production of silk for export during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the names of countries to which silk is being exported; and

(d) the details of amount in foreign exchange earned during the last three years through silk export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Government are making efforts to increase export of silk textile products. The target from export of silk textile products for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 550 crores.

(c) The main countries to which Indian Silk textile products are being exported are:

USA, United Germany,, United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Spain, UAE, France, Australia, Singapore, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Austria, Japan & Belgium.

(d) The export of silk textile products during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Export of silk textile products
1988-89	Rs. 331 crore
1989-90	Rs. 401 crore
1990-91	Rs. 331 crore

Popularisation of Handloom Products

2808. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to populariese handloom products in the Country in order to help the Handloom Weavers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1. The Government have been organising national Handloom Expos in the major Metropolitan Cities of the

Country to help handloom weavers to expose their skills and talents in handloom weaving as well as market their products at 20% rebate reimbursable by the State and Central Governments.

2. The Government have also launched a National Design Collection Scheme with a view to identifying and documenting traditional handloom weavers on regional basis so that these could be further developed and marketed through Exhibition-cum-sale by selected State handloom apex societies/Handloom Development Corporations.

3. Government have also been sponsoring participation of various State handloom Apex Societies/Corporations in Trade Fairs. Besides, Government have sponsored a large number of handloom weavers for participation in Craft Melas such as at Surajkund (Haryana), Shilpgram (Udaipur) and at Agra.

4. The Government have instituted a scheme for National Awards and merit Certificates, given by the President of India every year, to renowned handloom weavers in recognition of their outstanding contribution towards preservation/promotion and development of handloom industry in the Country and also with a view to encouraging the handloom weavers to further promote this industry.

Cultivation of cotton crop in Madhya Pradesh

2809. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing acute shortage of cotton and cotton yearn at present;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey in madhya Pradesh to promote the cultivation of the commercial crop of cotton therein; and

(d) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b): The Cotton Advisory Board has estimated the availability of cotton during the current cotton season 1991-92 at 138.64 lakh bales (inclusive of Opening Stock) against the availability of 150.04 lakh bales (inclusive of Opening Stock) during the cotton season 1990-91. The production of cotton yearn during the period April, 1991 January, 1992 has been estimated at 1212 million Kgs. against the production of 1218 million Kgs. during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) and (d) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 40 selected districts of 11 cotton growing States including Madhya Pradesh. The objective of the Scheme is to improve the production and productivity of cotton.

Production of Chanderi Sarees in Madhya Pradesh

2810. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Governments are aware that world famous Chanderi Sarees are manufactured by weavers in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite having the export potential and domestic demands, manufacture of Chanderi Sarees on large scale are not being promoted at the Government level in the State; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take so that production of Chanderi Sarees gets a boost on large scale in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Governments at the Centre and the State, both are aware of the potential of Chanderi Sarees and have taken a number of steps to give a boost to this industry.

The production of Chanderi sarees has increased from Rs. 45 lakhs in 1980 to about Rs. 12 crores in the current year. The number of looms producing Chanderi sarees has increased from 929 in 1980 to 2700 now.

(c) With a view to give a boost to the